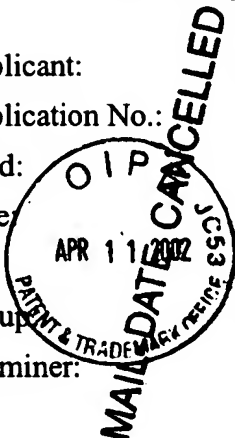


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John P. Havener, Stephen Piche, Donald Semrad and Brian K. Stephenson
Application No.: 10/082,783
Filed: February 25, 2002
Title: A METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING A PLANT WITH MULTIPLE INPUTS
Group: 2121
Examiner: Not yet assigned
Docket No.: PAVI-25,964



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Assistant Commissioner for
Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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5/20/02

(Date of Signature)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the initial review, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims

Please delete Claims 1-52.

Please add the following claims in the present application and insert the following new
Claims 53-80 to the above-referenced application.:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PAVI-25,964